

MINUTES OF THE SENATE PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Mary Pilcher-Cook at 1:30 pm on Tuesday, February 10, 2015, 118-N of the Capitol.

All members were present

Committee staff present:

Iraida Orr, Legislative Research Department
Randi Walters, Kansas Legislative Committee Assistant
Whitney Howard, Legislative Research Department
Rena Jefferies, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Nobuko Folmsbee, Office of Revisor of Statutes

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Elizabeth Rowe, PhD, MBA, Legislative Director, Rowe Neurology Institute
Chad Austin, Senior Vice President, Government Relations
Cathy Wiens, Vice President/Compliance of Olathe Medical Center
Tierney Grasser, Senior Vice President/Chief Financial Officer, Olathe Medical Center

Others in attendance:

[See Attached List](#)

Hearing on: SB122 — Hospital facility fees.

Chairperson Pilcher-Cook opened the hearing on **SB122**. Nobuko Folmsbee, revisor staff, reviewed the bill.

Dr. Elizabeth Rowe, Rowe Neurology Institute, testified in support of **SB122**. Dr. Rowe stated that they believe this bill is essential to providing Kansas patients with the cost transparency that will allow them to choose wisely when visiting a doctor in Kansas. Dr. Rowe stated that transparency with regard to these facility fees, as required by this bill, is essential, particularly now that patients are more likely to have high deductibles so that they have to pay the whole bill themselves. Dr. Rowe referred the committee to the attachments that she cited on Page 3 in her written testimony. ([Attachment 1](#))

Chad Austin, KHA, testified in opposition of **SB122**. He indicated that they worked hard last year with the proponents of 2014 HB2668. Mr. Austin stated that they believe this legislation would address **SB122**. It would provide and incorporate the deductibles that individuals have met as well as what their patient responsibilities would be from insurance companies. He stated that he believes that it has different aspects too that should be considered as we give that legislation the opportunity to be implemented. ([Attachment 2](#))

Cathy Wiens, Olathe Medical Center, continued the testimony in opposition of **SB122** by describing the general process from their hospital. Ms. Wiens provided some examples of their general consent form which talks about what patients can expect from professional charges from the other physicians. She also provided copies of the notices that they currently provide. Ms. Wiens highlighted a couple of

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challenges that she believes would be particularly difficult and would add resource and expense for hospitals. ([Attachment 2](#))

Tierney Grasser, Olathe Medical Center, continued the testimony in opposition of **SB122** by providing information on cost estimates and what their health system is doing. ([Attachment 2](#))

Written testimony in opposition of **SB122** was submitted by:
Physician Hospitals of Kansas ([Attachment 3](#))

After questions by the committee were addressed, Chairperson Pilcher-Cook stated that she believes the committee members need more information on the subject of transparency. She indicated that she would like to have an informational hearing on 2014 HB2668 that was passed last year to see exactly what information is being given to the consumers and what is not, as well as to get more information on what the current policy is and what the time lines are. Chairperson Pilcher-Cook continued the hearing until a later date.

After some discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 11, 2015.